

## National Republican.

W. J. MURTAUGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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The weekly editor of the REPUBLICAN is published this morning, and for sale at our publication office. It contains special correspondence from several important points of the country and from the Vienna Exposition; articles of local interest and value; editorials on the leading topics of the day, and a large amount of miscellaneous matter.

**THE WAWASSET INQUIRY.**

An official inquiry into the cause of the loss of the steamer Wawaset and a hearing at the bar of the U. S. Circuit Court. It has been held, and the testimony—fully printed in the HARRICANIAN—was closed yesterday. It may not have shed much additional light upon the matter beyond what had already been cast upon it through the efforts of the daily press. From the evidence it appears that the boat was well officered and manned, and fully supplied with life-preservers and life-boats. The difficulty seems to have been that from the time of discovery of the wreck until the arrival of two steamers within a few minutes elapsed before the Wawaset was a sunken wreck; that this time was occupied by the officers in the endeavor to beach the boat, after an unsuccessful effort to attach the hose and operate the fire-engine. The rapidity with which the boat passed through the air fanned the blaze aft toward the majority of the passengers, and at once paralyzed them with fright. They saw nothing but death by burning on the one hand, and the unknown on the other. They did not think of life-preservers or did not know where to get them or how to put them on after they had obtained them. The officers and crew seem to have been nearly all forward and separated from the helpless passengers, the women and children, by the fire. The boats were off, and no one there to launch them who was familiar with the process. The loss of the Wawaset, to whom a widow and her child were left adrift, is irreparable. She is a city girl in greatest resources, in patriotism and intelligence. She is trial now not only before the whole country, but before the world. Let her honest and respectable citizens come to the front, and in this matter save themselves and the whole country from future disgrace and ignominy. The Philadelphians of 1876 must prove himself worthy of the Philadelphians of 1776.

**FERNANDO WOOD ON STATES.**

The Hon. Fernando Wood, to whom a young dog and Caleb Cushing have recently given almost immortal fame, has just written a letter to New York paper on the subject of states which is extremely suggestive. He says that he has been asked to give his views on the subject of the Centennial Exposition, and in laying the entire truth before the country he has done an important public service. The United States commission, appointed by the President, is composed of worthy gentlemen, who will do all that can be done to make the Centennial ceremonies worthy of the country. But unless they are seconded by the legal authorities all their efforts will be vain and fruitless. We have, however, at present control of the Senate, and in the hands of men who should have been selected for the discharge of so important a trust. They are men without character or influence, in whom the honest citizens of Philadelphia have no confidence whatever. The silence of the press on the subject will, we are certain, be of very short duration. We can understand and appreciate the motives which inspire it, but a word in season now will save a good deal of pain and disappointment in the future. Philadelphia asked that the Centennial of Independence should be celebrated with the same enthusiasm as the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The rapidity with which the boat passed through the air fanned the blaze aft toward the majority of the passengers, and at once paralyzed them with fright. They saw nothing but death by burning on the one hand, and the unknown on the other. They did not think of life-preservers or did not know where to get them or how to put them on after they had obtained them. The officers and crew seem to have been nearly all forward and separated from the helpless passengers, the women and children, by the fire. The boats were off, and no one there to launch them who was familiar with the process. The loss of the Wawaset, to whom a widow and her child were left adrift, is irreparable. She is a city girl in greatest resources, in patriotism and intelligence. She is trial now not only before the whole country, but before the world. Let her honest and respectable citizens come to the front, and in this matter save themselves and the whole country from future disgrace and ignominy. The Philadelphians of 1876 must prove himself worthy of the Philadelphians of 1776.

**THE LARGEST PROSPECT IN THE SOUTH.**

The Rochester Democrat, in an article discussing the labor problem in the South, says: "The backward condition of the South is not entirely due to the ravages of war. There is one source of wealth and prosperity which, even in its palmy days, that section of the Union never enjoyed, namely, emigration."

Say what you will, that officers and men were away from their posts, that this or that was lacking in vigilance, the one stubborn fact remains that the fire was possible that there was some want of foresight and prudence, and that our people had not produced men of whom they were proud, or that if so, they were shamefully neglectful of them, and thereby failed to honor those of other countries. I cannot resist the conviction, therefore, that a preference should be given, in the erection of monuments to the dead, in Central Park, to eminent Americans."

Mr. Wood is in the main correct, and we hope to see his suggestions carried out in this spirit. But there is another side to the story, and it is strange over the name of Fernando Wood.

During the last twelve or fifteen years there is no politician in New York who has more steadily worshipped distinguished and undistinguished foreigners than Mr. Wood.

He is the man who, in the small beginning of his career, was most instrumental in bringing about the formation of the foreigner's room, or the bazaar-room, where all should be indiscriminate, fire-proof. Whence fault this was we will not say. But it is not too much to say that an experience of fifty years of steamboating in this country should have developed the means to render these expedited parts of a steamer impervious to fire. It is not important to know whether she exceeded her legal compulsion of passengers on this particular trip, when it is perfectly known that she was entirely carried safely on her own resources.

What is necessary and what is possible, and what the public and the people should demand, is the adoption of such measures as will prevent the possibility of a recurrence of like disasters.

**THE BACKWARD CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.**

The Rochester Democrat, in an article discussing the labor problem in the South, says: "The backward condition of the South is not entirely due to the ravages of war. There is one source of wealth and prosperity which, even in its palmy days, that section of the Union never enjoyed, namely, emigration."

This labor problem is one of the greatest and most important which the Southern States have to solve, and yet so far as we have been able to see not a single practical step has yet been taken in this direction. To be sure one or two of the more thoughtful newsmen have discussed the subject in a desultory sort of way, enlarging upon the advantages and resources of particular sections; one or two of the State Legislatures have, we believe, ordered pamphlets to be printed on the subject, but that is all. The causes which retard emigration southward, and which are so powerful in holding up the West, are the growth of decades of years previous to the abolition of slavery. The South was an aristocratic society, a prided itself on its

Yesterdays' "SCIMICIDE" had added another to the long list of cases for which she should be exonerated. Two men were unfortunate enough to be witnesses of the affair—inconveniences to be suffered at the station-house, and still more unfortunate in not being known. The consequence of all this was that they were held as witnesses and locked up in the dirty, filthy, swab-boxes known as cells in station-houses, and there compelled to remain during the night. It is all right and necessary for the Government to hold such persons in custody, but it is all wrong to treat men who have only willing to struggle for both, he should have chosen the latter. The file which he had to leave behind him, and which has since been turned back to a diverted, and hence the West has become the garden of the continent, great in enterprises, boundless in resources and possibilities, the controlling power in our politics and our economy. Turning from the richer and more productive South, the citizens of the Eastern States and the emigrant from Germany and Ireland sought a home in the more severe and less generous wilderness, preferring to face the scathing knife of the Indian rather than meet the social ostracism of the Virginians and the Carolinas.

The conditions of Southern society to-day

**ARE ALMOST THE SAME AS THEY WERE HALF A CENTURY AGO, EXCEPT THAT THE BLACKS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO FREEDOM AND HAD ONE PROTEST TO POLITICAL EQUALITY.**

In the South, to-day there is the same pride of family, the same sense of personal dignity, the same contempt of slaves. Labor is regarded as a bar sinister. It is more fashionable to loaf than to work. The slave-class is an inferior being. The planters' struggle to retain the old estates, which they cannot cultivate, instead of dividing them up into small farms, and inviting emigrants from the whole Union and the world. Here, for instance, is a State to the south of us, Virginia, which is almost entirely owned by any State in the Union, and yet she remains a desert compared with Illinois and Wisconsin and Iowa. They have outstripped her in the race for empire. It is all nonsense to attribute to Realism, or altogether to the ravages of war. The evil lies in the peculiar phase of civilization which she presents, and which cannot exist with the simple honest labor of the past ages. We speak these words in all kindness, because we desire to see her, as well as all the other Southern States, keep pace in prosperity and progress with every other section of the Union. Virginia touches our borders. As she grows so will our city grow. To-day we have a large traffic with her farmers and producers. We are the best customers of the northern section of the State. Her is it most remunerative market for all kinds of produce. As it increases in wealth so do we increase. Our interests are identical, for no city can be flourishing unless the country surrounding it is flourishing.

**THE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL.**

There is grave danger that the celebration of the Centennial of American Independence, three years hence in the city of Philadelphia, will be a disgrace rather than an honor to our country. In our news columns this morning will be found a letter to this subject from our Philadelphia correspondent, a trained journalist, a native of Philadelphia, and a gentleman on whose statements the ultimate reputation of the Centennial will depend.

The story that he tells is this: The

American government, in its

negligence and carelessness, has

done all that it can to

make the Centennial a success.

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